

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

November 5, 2009

Mr. Eric Holder  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0009

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write to request your personal intervention on behalf of my constituent, Larry Davis, guardian and father of Princess Ja'Daia Davis, daughter of Racheal M. Wilson. Cadet Rachael Wilson of the Baltimore City Fire Department died during a live burn training exercise in 2007. The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program denied benefits to Cadet Wilson's children, reporting that the record did not establish that Cadet Wilson was a "firefighter."

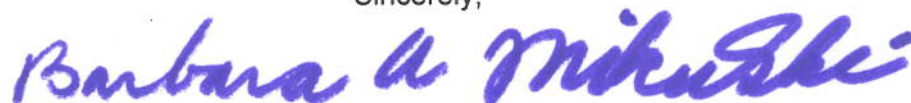
Survivor's benefits have already been awarded to the children's guardian from the Maryland State Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Cadet Wilson was, without question, a member of the IAFF Firefighters Union Local 734, which has been attempting to learn what additional information the Department of Justice requires in order to award the benefits. Their efforts to elicit substantive responses from Department of Justice staff have met with no success. The Baltimore City Fire Department expresses the same frustration.

I know that you share my unwavering commitment to providing for our nation's first responders and their families. The death of Cadet Racheal M. Williams was a tragedy for her family, the Baltimore City Fire Department and the larger community. We cannot compound this tragedy by summarily dismissing the request for earned benefits by saying that the information provided is insufficient. I ask that you direct the Department's staff to take whatever measures are necessary to make request for the specific documents needed to be able to process her case.

Racheal Wilson died in February 2007— over 2 ½ years ago. The Department of Justice cannot delay any further helping resolve this case in a favorable manner.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator